

Life's rich fabric at cross-cultural event

Holly Ife

August 28, 2006 12:00am

HIJABS, hummus and humour helped lift the veil on Islam at a cross-cultural event in Mornington.

The women-only fashion parade, meal and panel discussion was organised by the Southern Women's Action Network and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

SWAN members went to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal to gain an exemption from Victoria's anti-discrimination laws, allowing them to exclude men from yesterday's event.

"Of course, as is right and proper, Victorian law demanded we get permission in the interests of equality," said SWAN's Debbie Roberts.

She described the day -- which was sold out weeks ago -- as a positive cross-cultural experience.

"Today is about debunking the myths we may have about other cultures," she said.

In a question and answer session after the parade, audience members were amused to hear that Muslim women had "bad scarf days", and that Tie Rack scarves made beautiful hijabs.



Putting their heads together: Toltu Tufa, Zulfiye Tufa and Nadine Sabbagh lifting the veil on Islam at a cross-cultural event in Mornington. The women-only fashion parade, meal and panel discussion was organised by the Southern Women's Action Network and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. Picture: Nicki Connolly